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AIRGRAM

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TO : Department of State

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FROM : Amembassy ACCRA

DATE: 27 FEB 1963

SUBJECT : Evaluation of NIS Program

REF : CA-6275 of December 7, 1962

The Embassy regrets the delay in replying to CA-6275 asking for comments on certain specific questions about the usefulness of NIS sections. It is hoped, however, that the following comments may still be useful. They are given in the same order as the original questions.

a) In general, the Embassy has made very little use of the NIS sections that have been made available to it, and does not anticipate many situations in which it would have special uses for the NIS.

b) The Embassy does not believe that the NIS would be of great usefulness in the event of a critical situation developing in surrounding areas. In most cases, the current reporting of the posts that are most directly involved gives a better understanding of the problems in such a critical situation. Exceptions are noted in the answer to question "d" below.

c) The Embassy has not made sufficient use of the NIS to criticize the extent of detail in the various sections. In many cases, however, one has the impression that information is provided in greater detail than is really useful. Much of the detailed information tends to become rapidly outdated, despite the fact that the NIS is devoted to basic intelligence. The summary passages do have value, and are useful for general orientation.

d) The sociological, political and economic sections of the NIS generally tend to become outdated more quickly than the others. The most useful or potentially useful of these sections, however, are those which provide the kind of background data that is generally found only in scholarly monographs or reference works. For instance, in West Africa

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